**Construct**

**Housing**

Construction begins for Parkview housing project

**Mariella Roque**
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University housing students are losing a parking lot today but gaining new dorms as construction starts for the new housing structure called Parkview.

Bill Foster, executive director of Parking and Transportation, announced the new plans for the Panther Hall parking lot and 113th Avenue to housing students and the Residence Hall Association board last Wednesday evening at a town hall meeting in Everglades Hall.

The area will be closed until 2013 in order to have the space and time to build the new facilities.

"One of the primary missions of this institution is to grow the on-campus experience and our desire [is] to see students learn and excel on campus," said Jim Wassenaar, executive director of Student Affairs Operations and Auxiliary Services, who delivered the initial presentation of the new housing project.

Parkview, according to the FIU housing website, "will consist of two construction phases each accommodating 620 beds of student housing..." Phase one is expected to be completed by fall 2013 and phase two by the fall 2016.

"In many ways, [Parkview] will be equivalent to what [students] are experiencing currently in [the University Park] Towers," Wassenaar said.

The models of the plan were unveiled by means of display boards, a 3-D miniature replica and a visual presentation.

"I'm really excited," said Patricia Theard, junior in biology and chemistry and vice president of RHA at Everglades Hall. "It's great how they planned it out."

Along with the dorms, the two new buildings, connected by an elevated bridge, will include lounges, study rooms and multi-purpose gathering spaces. A three-story parking garage will be placed between Parkview and Panther Hall.

"This is the very first housing project that will also have with it a parking structure," Wassenaar said. "This is in response to the growing demands."

According to Wassenaar, the Panther Hall parking lot will be "relocated as a byproduct of the project."

"Normally we take 18 months to build a structure this size... The reality is you can't deliver a residence hall late," Wassenaar said. "The contractors have been given the minimum time in order to erect this building."

Although the building process will not begin until June 6, underground utilities and roadwork will begin March 5.

"We didn't want to shut down Panther Hall lot, we put it off as long as we could," Wassenaar said. "If we don't start on March 6, underground util-

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**E**

**Our Green Energy**

Students petition for a ‘green’ fee

**MELHOR LEONOR**
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Sustainable energy at the University could have a new source of financial support, if the Student Green Energy Fund is enacted at FIU.

The SGEF would be funds gathered from a per-credit fee to promote energy sustainability at the University.

At this stage, supporters of the SGEF are seeking to gain the right for students to be able to vote on whether they want the fund enacted.

Beginning at the University of Florida in 2007, the movement became a statewide campaign with the support of the Florida Youth Environmental Sustainability Coalition.

Jessica Okaty, a current member of Students for Environmental Action and former vice president, has been working on the proposal at FIU since 2008 and said that although she hopes the fee is enacted, their main goal is to give students the choice.

"Many people think we are trying to implement the fee, but really we are trying to initiate a referendum to allow students to vote on if they want to initiate it," Okaty said.

The SGEF fee would accompany tuition fees and would be less than $1 per credit hour.

"It began as a bill through the state legislature to allow all students to have with it a parking structure," Wassenaar said. "(This is) in response to the growing demands."

According to Wassenaar, the Panther Hall parking lot will be "relocated as a byproduct of the project."

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**COMING UP**

**At the Bay**

Check out Wednesday’s issue for a profile on Michael Heithaus, director of the School of Environment, Arts and Society.

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Students protest valedictorian’s deporta tion order

Students protested Friday in support of a Miami high school valedictorian who has been ordered by a federal immigration lawyer to leave the country.

Steve criança reports in The Miami Herald that a judge denied Daniela Pelaez’s request for a green card Monday. Her attorney is planning an appeal.

The 18-year-old student came to the United States from Colombia with her family when she was 4 on a tourist visa. She considers herself American and has applied to several Ivy League universities with the dream of becoming a heart surgeon.

“The conclusion of their appeal, ICE will review this matter to determine whether an exercise of discretion is warranted,” Yglesias said.

The Miami Herald reports a judge denied Danial Pelaez’s request for a green card Monday. Her attorney is planning an appeal.

BELGRADE will continue to encourage good neighbor relations in the Western Balkans.”

Yglesias said.

The Beacon – Monday, March 5, 2012 www.fiusm.com

Corrections

In Vol. 23, Issue 72 of The Beacon in the Opinion section, the article “Memoir writing a frivolous outlet for students” was incorrect.

“This is a remarkable result,” he said. “I hope Belgrade will continue to encourage good neighbor relations in the Western Balkans.”

“The signatures then need to be approved by registrar’s (office) and then approved by the student Supreme Court,” O’Keefe said. “If the referendum is passed, the item would be brought before the Board of Trustees. If approved by the Board of Trustees, it would go to the Board of Governors.”

If the SGEF becomes enacted, the students would work with the Office of Sustainability to create a plan for the funds and a committee comprised of students appointed by the student body president and the University president.

According to Okaty, the fund has received student support, with 74 percent of voters supporting it during a non-binding referendum in 2010 held by SGA.

In a press release the sea, the group stated that the money would be used to “reduce energy costs by establishing or improving the use of renewable energy technologies or energy efficiencies that directly reduce the University’s greenhouse gas emissions, energy wastes or energy costs.”

Okaty also said that the fund would further the goals set by the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment adopted by University President Mark Rosenberg.

The initiative, however, is faced by some with reservations.

“The impact of the enactment of this proposal cannot be determined yet because it’s unclear what the money would go towards,” O’Keefe said. “My concern with the fee is that I do believe many of the green initiatives would be taken up immediately if the economic benefit was guaranteed even without an SGEF. The University is the most sustainable in the state and I expect FIU to continue to hold that title even though other schools have their own version of the SGEF.”

Okaty, along with the SEA, believes that the SGEF is an important move concerning sustainability at a statewide level.

“The more universities that enact the initiative, the more the state of Florida will become a leader in sustainable initiatives.” Okaty said.

Group proposes $1 per credit fee

Universities to be able to vote, but last year the Board of Governors became in charge of fees instead so each university now has to go through their board of trustees,” Okaty said.

“The fee can be no more than $1 per credit hour and can only go toward renewable energy and efficiency initiatives on campus.”

On Feb. 29, Sustainability Committee Chairperson Bill Foster, Vice President of Student Affairs Rosas Jones, Student Government Council at Modesto Maimili Campus President and University Trustee Patrick O’Keefe and other administrators met to discuss the process that the students interested in the SGEF would be able to go through to approve it.

According to O’Keefe, the process would require about 1,000 signatures from students, 15 percent of the amount of students that voted in the last University-wide election, as per the Student Government Association’s constitution.

“The signatures then need to be approved by registrar’s (office) and then approved by the student Supreme Court,” O’Keefe said. “If the referendum is passed, the item would be brought before the Board of Trustees. If approved by the Board of Trustees, it would go to the Board of Governors.”

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Okaty also said that the fund would further the goals set by the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment adopted by University President Mark Rosenberg.

The initiative, however, is faced by some with reservations.

“The idea sends the wrong message to create a new fee at a time when many students can’t afford college and are asking for no tuition hikes,” O’Keefe said. “This is rather my position on all fees at this time.”

O’Keefe also has questions as to what the fee would do.

“The impact of the enactment of this proposal cannot be determined yet because it’s unclear what the money would go towards,” O’Keefe said. “My concern with the fee is that I do believe many of the green initiatives would be taken up immediately if the economic benefit was guaranteed even without a SGEF. The University is the most sustainable in the state and I expect FIU to continue to hold that title even though other schools have their own version of the SGEF.”

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New opportunities arise as spring practice begins

BRANDON WISE
Asst. Sports Director  brandon.wise@fiusm.com

After a season that finished in such misery and disaster in late December, there was a shining light at the beginning of Spring: a fresh start. For head coach Mario Cristobal, he knows that many players have been waiting to get their shot. “So many players have been waiting in the wings to step up and make their mark on the program,” Cristobal said. “They’re eager and they’ve been working their butts off while they’ve been waiting their turn. The time is now. We’re going to put them in situations where they can prove themselves.” Those players will get their opportunity because of the loss of quarterback Wesley Carroll and T.Y. Hilton to graduation. One of those players, Jake Medlock, will get his chance to lead the team this spring. “If I need to show hard work, determination, lead the team, show [Tim Cramsey] that this injury on my shoulder hasn’t stopped me,” Medlock said. “Show him I can be a leader on the team.”

The Jacksonville native heads into the spring as the odd’s-on favorite to win the starting job when the season kicks off in September. However, Lorenzo Hammond, Fred Porter, Akil Dan-Fadio and newcomer E.J. Hilliard, will be pushing him. Cristobal thinks that Medlock will be the leader for the spring, but that it’s subject to change. “We ended the year with Medlock starting until he got hurt so he does have some experience and a good amount of talent,” Cristobal said. “The rest of that crew, they’re all young, but they’re really talented guys, that’s what spring football is for. To see who can really do it when things are coming at you.”

Kirsch homers late to defeat Brown in home opener

EDUARDO ALMAUGER
Staff Writer  eduardo.almauguer@fiusm.com

FIU beat the Brown Bears in Friday’s home opener 6-5 in a match where the Panther that was responsible for the win never even stepped on the field.

Before the sixth inning, junior Adam Kirsch had not recorded a hit all night. He was 0-for-3 with a sac fly and had already committed an error on the field.

He went back into the dugout and repeatedly asked his teammates, “What’s wrong with my swing?” It was not until sophomore right-hander Michael Ellis told him the timing of his left foot was off that Kirsch returned to the plate in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The crowd exploded as he turned on a first pitch fastball saw from Brown pitcher Will Marcal and launched it more than 400 feet from home plate for the decisive go-ahead home run. “It was emotional when he hit that home run to dead centerfield,” said junior Mike Martinez. It was a muggy night where the lead swung back and forth thanks in part to errors, walks, and clutch hits from both FIU (2-5) and Brown (0-1).

If Kirsch played the biggest role in Friday’s win, then Martinez took second place without question. Martinez recorded two hits, two walks (one intentional) and two RBIs and was responsible for putting his team on the board early on in the game.

FIU’s starter, redshirt junior Mason McVay threw 4 1/3 innings, allowed six hits, two earned runs, two walks and five strikeouts. The two walks were an improvement from his last start where he walked five batters.

In the first inning, McVay struggled against Brown allowing three hits and a walk. Brown catcher Wes Van Boom fough off eight pitches before he pushed across an RBI single.

Freshman Julius Gaines then botched a routine play with the bases loaded for his fifth error on the season to allow a second run to come in for Brown.

FIU managed to cut the lead in half with two outs in the bottom of the first as junior Nathan Burris walked and ended up scoring from first on a pick off attempt and allowed the runner to move up third base. Matt DeRenzi capitalized on the mistake and drove in the runner to make it 3-1.

At this point, McVay was falling into the same pattern that forced him out of the game just a week earlier. “My mechanics were too fast,” McVay said. “It took me about 60-65 pitches to settle in.”

McVay then retired six of the next seven batters he faced in the third and fourth inning, but not before Martinez drove in his second run of the game in the bottom of the third inning to make it 3-2. FIU took the lead for the first time when junior T.J. Shantz ripped a bases-loaded double in the fourth inning to give his team a 4-3 lead.

Kirsch then added a sacrifice fly in the fifth to pad the lead.

Right-hander Albert Cardenas relieved McVay but ran into trouble in the seventh inning.

The pace of the game slowed dramatically as Cardenas loaded the bases with no outs. He then walked in a runner to make it 5-4, and balked to allow Brown to tie the game.

The top half of the seventh inning last 30 minutes, but it took Kirsch three seconds to breathe life back into FIU Baseball Stadium with his solo home run to give his team a 6-5 lead.

Freshman right-hander John Costa entered the game for FIU and blew away all five batters he faced with strikeouts, hitting 95 mph at one point followed by junior Michael Gomez earning the save in the ninth.

The win snapped the two-year home opener losing streak FIU had and relieved the players from the pressure of possibly falling to 1-6. “The more games you win, the more confidence your team gets,” said head coach Turtle Thomas.
**Gustafsdottir selected to swim in NCAA championships**

**RICO ALBARRACIN**
Asst. Sports Director
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Johanna Gustafsdottir, 2012 Sun Belt Conference Swimmer of the Year, has been officially invited to compete in the 2012 NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships held March 15-17 at the James E. Martin Aquatics Center in Auburn, Ala.

"This is another step in the growth of our program to be able to have a presence at the NCAA Championships and the opportunity to bring home a swimming and diving championship to FIU."

Gustafsdottir won the 200 Individual Medley, 200 freestyle and 200 backstroke, including setting Sun Belt records along the way. She scored 307.70 points on the one-meter and 328.85 points in the three-meter. Gustafsdottir was selected to swim in NCAA championships on March 15-17.

New offensive coordinator making quick adjustments

Jake Medlock (left) heads into spring practice as the starting quarterback.

**FOOTBALL, PAGE 3**

The offense appears to be very similar to the one that former offensive coordinator Scott Satterfield ran for two years. Medlock only sees a couple of adjustments for the Panther offense this spring.

"It’s been pretty good, it’s pretty much the same, it’s just different wording," Medlock said. "There’s a couple of new things, the snap cadence is one, but we’re going to get it squared away."

Cristobal knows that the adjustment period is going to take some time with the team.

"There’s going to be an adjustment period,” Cristobal said. “But it’s going to be a good one. Whenever you introduce new concepts, new schemes, I think there is a grace period that you need to make things function efficiently and from a timely standpoint as well.”

Senior offensive lineman Caylin Hauptmann will miss the entire spring due to a shoulder injury he sustained. Medlock returns after starting all 13 games for the Panthers and said he was surprised to see him on the depth chart before the season started.

"It’s a grace period that you need to make things function efficiently and from a timely standpoint as well."

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Senior offensive lineman Caylin Hauptmann will miss the entire spring due to a shoulder injury he sustained.

He is expected to be available when the season starts in the Fall.

**SCHEDULE RELEASED**

The upcoming season will see the Panthers battle with many familiar foes as well as some new ones. The addition of South Alabama to the conference means that this will be the first time that FIU will not play every team in the Sun Belt.

The schedule is high-lighted by Louisville coming to the Cage on Sept. 22, as well as defending Sun Belt champions Arkansas State on Oct. 4.

Cristobal is excited that the schedule is finally in front of him to read.

“We’re excited to play another competitive schedule as we continue to build our football program,” Cristobal said. “To finally see our schedule in print and the opportunities presented by it is the perfect motivational factor as we start spring football.”

**2012 FIU FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

- **AT DUKe**
  - Sept. 1

- **VS. A Kerr**
  - Sept. 8

- **AT CENTRAL FLORIDA**
  - Sept. 13

- **VS. LOUISVILLE**
  - Sept. 22

- **AT LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE**
  - Sept. 29

- **VS. ARKANSAS STATE**
  - Oct. 4

- **VS. MIDDLE TENNESSEE**
  - Oct. 13

- **AT TROY**
  - Oct. 20

- **AT SOUTH ALABAMA**
  - Nov. 3

- **AT FLORIDA ATLANTIC**
  - Nov. 16

- **VS. LOUISIANA MONROE**
  - Nov. 24

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I’ve installed the offense with the staff and with the team and we got on the field today for the first time running it,” Cramsey said. “There’s going to be some clicks we got to fix, there’s going to be situations that we need to tune up. But it’s been good, the players have bought in.”

The offense appears to be very similar to the one that former offensive coordinator Scott Satterfield ran for two years. Medlock only sees a couple of adjustments for the Panther offense this spring.

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The upcoming season will see the Panthers battle with many familiar foes as well as some new ones. The addition of South Alabama to the conference means that this will be the first time that FIU will not play every team in the Sun Belt.

They will play at South Alabama this year, but not North Texas.

The season kicks off with the Panthers on the road at Duke on Sept. 1 before coming home to take on Akron on Sept. 8.

The schedule is high-lighted by Louisville coming to the Cage on Sept. 22, as well as defending Sun Belt champions Arkansas State on Oct. 4.

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Arabian Nights includes audience in action

ALFREDO APARICIO
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The stage is simple: an alcove in the center with a long row of low steps framed by a sea of stars on the back curtain. Drums and a clarinet play soft music as the actors, one by one, pass along the stage to assemble the finishing touches as the audience shuffles in.

The music sets the mood effectively; the audience is transported to a time in Arabia’s past for the beginning of “Arabian Nights,” a play written by Mary Zimmerman and directed by Phillip Church, associate professor.

The play starts with a murder; King Shahryar discovers his wife with a slave and proceeds to murder her, vowing to marry, love and kill every virgin in the kingdom. This goes on for three years until Scheherazade enchants him with the stories she tells.

Thus, she saves her life and the life of every other virgin maid in the kingdom.

The plight of Scheherazade, played by Zakiya ezade, is especially intriguing because she has placed the burden on herself to tame a man who has suffered heartbreak.

As a result of his wife’s betrayal, he is misunderstood and it is up to Scheherazade to open up his heart again through the magic of storytelling.

The production’s aim has been to utilize the whole stage as well as the actual theater itself. Actors appear on the balcony, the steps, dance through the rows and sing from the ledge of the stage as the story progresses.

At one point, Scheherazade even asks the audience to name the most generous character in her story.

The cohesiveness of the play is shocking. The movements of each actor were all coordinated; when one actor moved, another actor moved along with them to create harmony.

Many had to speak through long monologues without pausing to take a breath, change characters in the same scene simply by removing one piece of clothing or adding another or dance as they sung their way through the audience onto the stage.

The set design, crafted by the head of design and production, Jesse Dreikosen, allows for this elaborate stage design.

The clean floor plan left a lot of open space for the actors to move around and interact with the audience.

The lighting design, led by Tony Galaska, assistant professor of lighting design and stage management, maintains the flow of the play.

The costume designs, led by Marilyn Skow, artistic director and chair of the Department of Theatre, eases the character transitions for the audience.

Relay For Life

Jazz professor gives back to environment

JOEL CHAVARRIA
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Some musicians go the extra mile and give back to their communities with their art. Jamie Ousley, currently the jazz bass instructor and a member of the marketing committee at the University’s School of Music, has attained just that.

Ousley has released three full-length albums on a record label that he started himself. As the current president of TIE Records, he has overseen the production and distribution of his music.

“The recording industry the way it is, [seeking] a deal with a record company usually seems to be a lose lose situation,” claimed Ousley.

He released his third album, “A Sea of Voices,” with fellow musicians Joe Davidian and Austin McMahon to critical and contemporary acclaim earlier this year. It has recently reached eighth place in the JazzWeek national radio charts.

“My most recent CD was recorded in Boston with Joe on piano and Austin on drums. I went to [the University of Miami] with these guys and we’ve kept this trio together for over 10 years; this CD is the most organic and interactive yet, in my opinion,” stated Ousley.

In light of this record release, Ousley and his jazz trio embarked on a tour of South Florida late last month to promote the CD and the environmental charity to which all proceeds would be donated: Sunshine State Interfaith Power and Light.

A longtime advocate of natural conservation efforts and a regular to playing in acoustically sound churches, Ousley felt the SSIP, a perfect match for his philanthropic goals. According to Ousley, “[the organi-
Oscar the periscope of living in South Florida is having the beach in your own backyard. With spring break around the corner, it is time to acknowledge all of your hard work by showing yourself off in a new swimsuit.

Here are some tips to keep your beach body in check throughout the season as you can fit in your swimsuit all year long.

**IN THE WATER**

Activities in the water are great for the person who is not a fan of sweat as well as for the gym enthusiast because of its resistance and water currents. South Florida beaches have an abundance of activities for every fitness level and type of workout. Take your workout out on the water by renting a kayak with your friends. According to the American Council on Exercise, kayaking is a great aerobic exercise that can help you burn anywhere from 280-450 calories an hour.

In addition to the arm, shoulder, chest and back workout that you gain from paddling, you are also engaging the core by shifting your weight when you lean in to turn the kayak.

Rental prices range anywhere from $20 to $30 in the Fort Lauderdale- Miami Beach areas.

One activity I have yet to try is surfing. I hear it is a great workout due to the water's uneven surface. The unpredictable waves force you to use every part of your body to stay on the board constantly.

For prices on group and private surf lessons, checkout sobesurf.com. If you are a thrill seeker looking to try something new, head over to Quiet Waters Park in Deerfield Beach and learn how to wakeboard with their unique cable system. Information on wakeboard rentals and lesson rates are available at skieruniusa.com.

**ON LAND**

If you are more of a land lover, show off your skills in the sand by playing a game of beach volleyball with your friends. This activity is a great calorie burner. By serving, passing and spiking the ball, you can burn over 400 calories in one hour while challenging your core in the uneven surface of the sand. The best part about beach volleyball is that the fun and competitive nature of the game distracts you from the workout. From using your arms to hit the ball to sculpting your legs while you run, you end up working every part of your body.

Another popular game to play in the sand is frisbee. In addition to working out your arms, you can burn up to 200 calories an hour by running and jumping to catch the frisbee before it hits the ground.

Challenge yourself even more by turning with your friends to throw and catch the frisbee at longer distances. While some people prefer to throw around a football, paddleball is by far my favorite beach sport; it requires just as much hand-eye coordination as throwing and catching football.

The weather really looks on your feet while you run for the ball and hit it back to your opponent. Again, running and hitting the ball provides you with a great full body workout while helping you have a fun day at the beach.

If the wind is throwing off your game, kick around a soccer ball with your friends for a great cardio and leg workout.

When you get tired of the sand in between your toes, take your workout ocean side with a bike ride. Cruise beside the coastline and explore the shops, restaurants and entertainment while toning your quads, hamstrings, thighs and calf muscles.

Bicycle rentals in the South Florida area range anywhere from $5 to $15 an hour for single riders.

Spring break is a great time to relax from school work, but it is no excuse to undo your new beach body. By staying active and having fun in the sun, you can save your swimsuit for mam-mam-kissed days.

Ranaisha Ibrahim is an instructor at the Recreation Center.
Internet keeps students informed about global media

ISMERALY TORRES
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When Samuel Morse presented the first electronic telegraph in the mid-19th century, no one had truly imagined the heights that rapid traveling information could reach. Before society itself could fully understand the effects and mechanics of this phenomenon, global media engulfed people. Today, global media is erasing all concepts of borders as information and news reports travel within countries and overseas in a matter of seconds. The concept of globalized media has also forcefully squeezed itself into playing an important role in modern culture.

The Internet has caused the greatest spike in the growth of global media. In reference to low culture, for example, social mediums such as Facebook and Twitter have become some of the public’s fastest and most popular ways of staying informed about the latest breaking news. Facebook is currently used over 200 different countries. In the United States alone, there are over 150 million users.

College students are always on the move. Most students find themselves juggling between classes, work, friends and extracurricular activities. Fast Internet and fast information is exactly what a busy college student needs.

For these reasons, there seems to be a natural attraction to the Internet on behalf of the students. It is arguable that the Internet has become a vital part of student life when it comes to gathering information, staying informed and maintaining social status.

The power of these global mediums, and the effect it has on them personally, has become more and more apparent to students at our University.

“Just last year when Osama Bin Laden was killed, I remember waking up, signing on to Facebook and seeing all the status updates. After watching the local news, my assumptions had been confirmed,” said Shila Barrera, a sophomore biology student.

Media & Culture, 8th edition, released in 2011, illustrates that about 45 percent of society today consumes media by means of a computer or mobile device. Like most people, University peers consistently have either a computer or cellular device at arm’s reach, if not both.

Some students have developed a dependency on the Internet. “I went on a trip during the winter break to Honduras. The week I spent there I had no access to the Internet, neither through my phone or a computer. I felt isolated from the world,” said Danny Torres, a freshman at the University.

The Internet started simply as a great way to “stay connected,” it has evolved into a system that has hooked, and willingly kept, the attention of most students. Students probably see the Internet as simply a great way to “stay connected,” it has evolved into a system that has hooked, and willingly kept, the attention of most students. Students probably see the Internet as simply a great way to “stay connected.”

The Internet has caused the greatest spike in the growth of global media.

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Fifth annual Wellness Expo to bring related practitioners

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The Biscayne Bay Campus Wellness Center is lubricating the machinery for the Wellness Expo 2012, held on the first Tuesday of March for the last five years. The event will take place on March 6 from 10 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center, and will focus on boosting health and wellness of students and the community.

“We invite several vendors and health care providers and they do various health screenings,” said Ludovica Virgile, BBC Wellness Center’s Program Assistant.

The screenings include: chiropractic checks for spinal alignment, dental exams, blood pressure, vision exam, cholesterol and allergy examinations.

The Care Resources’ mobile unit, which conducts HIV tests even on the Biscayne Bay campus, will also be present.

Students looking to study or play some of their favorite video games now have a place to do it at the BBC Wellness Center.

A few months and $1.1 million later, the Wolfe University Center’s Game Room is available to the BBC community.

Although the grand opening of WUC 222 was last Nov., it was officially opened this spring, according to Pablo Haspel, Student Government Council at BBC speaker of the senate.

Boasting flat-screen TVs, a Microsoft Xbox 360, a Nintendo Wii and lounge chairs, the space, which once housed the cafeteria, is nevertheless called a quiet area. It is also adjacent to a study room that students can access at any time.

Students may check out games from the WUC Computer lab. Some of the games offered are Madden NFL Football 2012, NBA 2K12, Mario Kart, FIFA Soccer 2012, and Call of Duty Modern Warfare.

According to Sholom Neishtadt, former SGC-BBC president, the new furniture and carpet cost over $200,000. The funds came from the Activity and Service fee that students pay every semester.

Now that it is open, the game room has become a place of refuge for students like Kimberly M. Lauriston, a senior social work student.

“I like the new game room. I can come here relax and study with my friends,” Lauriston said. She suggested, however, that a pool table should be added to the game room.

Earl Richards, a sophomore advertising major, thinks SGC-BBC should do a better job spreading the word. He doesn’t remember seeing or reading a single thing about a grand opening.

“There is no sign on the door and the room looks dark. You won’t notice that it is here just by walking by,” Richards said.

Neishtadt thinks that even though the game room has a lot to offer, the game selection is not vast.

According to Neishtadt, they should have a larger selection of video games, because of the budget that SGA-SGA gives the WUC every year.

Haspel acknowledges that it will take time.

“It’s about getting the word out to people and that is not something that can happen from today to tomorrow,” Haspel said.

“It’s something that takes time, but it’s something that we will be tackling within the weeks to come to make sure the people know about the services that are being offered. At the end of the day, it was paid by the students to be used by the students.”

SGC-BBC’s expectations of the game room are slowly being met. Haspel thinks it is a great step up from what SGC-BBC has offered in the past.

Being a fan of the gameroom, Haspel uses it at least once a week and he enjoys his down time by playing the Xbox.

“Right now, I think the offerings are great but there is potential to grow it and to improve it in the near future,” Haspel said.

Chilean author to hold reading and discussion

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Acclaimed author Isabel Allende will be presented with the Lawrence A. Saunders literary award at the Writers on the Bay Reading Series in Wolfe University Center 244A today from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

No official announcement has been given in regards to a specific book that Allende will be reading from, but questions can come from any material the author has published.

“We hope the students will gain the opportunity to meet an author who is published and has experience in writing, and to give insight to those who are interested in writing,” said Mara Lee, senior secretary in the English Department.

This event is open to the general public, particularly to students from the Latin American and Caribbean studies and the MFA program. The Writers on the Bay Reading Series is geared towards students who aspire to become authors.

They may pose questions to Allende about her work, which in return will assist them in their literary venture.